

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Dear Committee Members

I do not agree with the proposed changes set out in the current Bill. I believe home educating is a parent's right to choose for their children and that it should be valued and respected as the valid and high-quality form of education that it is.

My children are very different learners, across so many levels, and homeschooling allows me to cater to their individual needs in everything they love and do, rather than follow the cookie cutter school curriculum that is delivered in the mainstream education system. This did not work for them and I do not want to have that imposed on them in our homeschooling world that is currently tailored specifically to each of them and our family values.

We also don't pose a burden on the roads, contributing to the before and after school traffic, as we choose to arrange our learning and activities around such strict time-tabling in a way that is more flexible and engaging with our children.

Unlike in school, my kids get to choose who their friends are, regardless of 'grade level', age, or anything else, and know how to develop more positive bonds with people across all walks of society rather than be isolated to set types of classroom crowds with minimal adult support available. They maintain more wholesome peer relationships that reflect their learning in a whole-child style that is homeschooling rather than wasting time purely force feeding a prescribed curriculum down their throats.

I can cater to one of my children being highly skilled at performing arts, including dancing and acting and the other in the computer and IT world, without the national curriculum hindering their opportunities and stifling their love of learning. I am able to cater to these so fully because I am not wasting time dwelling on ticking a box on a curriculum that is meaningless in their education and doesn't speak to high-quality in our style of learning, allowing me to fully provide a range of opportunities that allows them so much more than any prescribed curriculum ever could.

In the homeschooling community any signs of bullying is dealt with almost immediately as the parents are able to have direct contact with each other and help the children understand their words/actions, and let's face it - adult to child ratios are second to none.

My husband is currently undergoing dialysis and has a multitude of medical appointments through the week, so our time as a family is very important and the flexibility that homeschooling gives us to work around the ever changing schedule whilst being able to learn through a delicate balance of togetherness and independence is the best thing my family could wish for.

Jenni Rudd